

DISCOVERY OF FLINT IMPLEMENTS IN THE HIGHER LEVEL  
GRAVEL AT MILFORD HILL, SALISBURY.

To the east of Salisbury, immediately above the point where a small tributary stream, called the Bourne, joins the River Avon, rises a low chalk hill which is partially covered with a thin layer of drift gravel, in every way corresponding to the implement-bearing deposit at Bemerton on the west. This deposit at Milford Hill is about one hundred feet above the level of the rivers Avon and Bourne, is thickest at the summit, gradually thinning out on the sides, and ceasing altogether about half-way down the hill.

This drift varies much in different spots, its general color, however, is dark ochreous brown; the great bulk of the gravel is composed of subangular chalk flints, some of them of very large size and but little rolled or water-worn; there is also a considerable proportion of greensand chert, a few small boulders or "grey wethers" of saccharoid sandstone, and some well-rolled tertiary pebbles from the eocene beds.

There is a total absence of anything like stratification, the gravel resting unconformably upon the chalk, which in parts has been considerably eroded, giving rise to the formation of shallow "pot-holes." The only organic remains as yet found consist of a few land shells, all of species now existing in the neighbourhood, a small piece of bone, and a fragment of an upper molar tooth of a species of *equus*. The shells found are of the following species:—*Helix hispida* (very plentiful); *Helix arbustorum*; *Pupa muscorum*; and *Zua lubrica*.

With regard to the implements, they belong almost without exception to the pointed type, which, as Mr. Evans has before remarked, is the form most prevalent in the higher level gravels. They have all been made by chipping only; there is a total absence of any subsequent human rubbing, although, in some cases, the sharp angles of the fractures

have been much worn down by travelling along the bed of ancient Drift river in company with rough stones and sand.<sup>1</sup> Some are stained a bright ochreous color, whilst others still preserve the original tints of the flints ; this is entirely owing to the unequal composition of the beds of gravel from which the implements have been derived, and in no way affects the comparative age of the specimens.

Hitherto all the implements from the Drift have been stated as manufactured from flint, derived either directly or indirectly, in the shape of eocene pebbles from the chalk ; there are, however, in the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum two interesting exceptions to this rule, where the fabricator, either from choice or necessity, has employed coarse greensand chert, a material which, although much tougher, is far less easily worked than flint ; one is from Milford Hill, and the other, deposited by Mr. James Brown, is from the Drift, at Hill Head, on the Fareham coast, a locality remarkably rich in the oval or lower-level type of implement.<sup>2</sup>

Besides the well-marked implements, which however rude in outward form still bear considerable evidence of design and forethought, there exists, scattered through the gravel, a large number of rough flint flakes or chippings, which were cast aside as apparently of no use ; indeed, such rough waste flakings must necessarily have been struck off in the manufacture of the more finished tools, and they are important as supplying a link in the evidence that these remains are the handicraft of man. They are easily overlooked, and do not at first sight appeal much to the uneducated eye.

During the month of June last, from this spot alone, about thirty well-marked implements have been obtained, hence Milford Hill may fairly rank with some of the most productive of the continental localities. The accompanying section of the gravel-pit (taken from west to east) may suffice to illustrate the nature of the deposit.

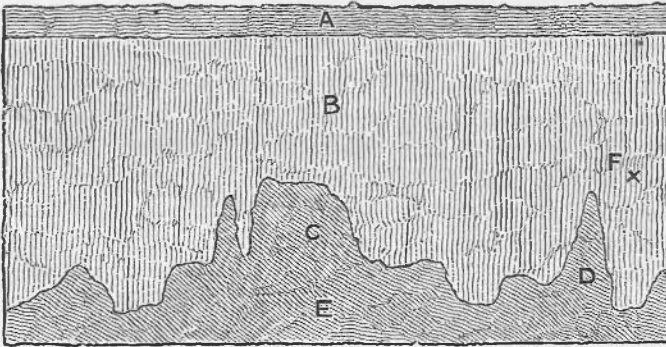
In the present state of our knowledge of this subject, it is

<sup>1</sup> See the valuable Memoir by Mr. John Evans, F.S.A., on the various types of flint implements of the drift, and the circumstances connected with their discovery both in France and England, *Archæologia*, vol. xxxviii. p. 287.

<sup>2</sup> An instructive series of flint implements from the Drift has been formed

in the Salisbury Museum, illustrating the types of form by specimens from various localities in this country and in France, with mammalian remains by which they are accompanied. See the *Descriptive Catalogue of the Museum* (illustrated edition), which may be obtained from Mr. E. T. Stevens, Salisbury.

undesirable to associate these implements with any crude theories as to their origin, and this brief paper has merely sought to place upon record another well authenticated example of the finding of human-worked flint weapons in perfectly undisturbed beds of the Drift period.



North Section of the Gravel Pit at Milford Hill, Salisbury, May, 1864.  
Depth of the Pit, 10 to 12 feet.

- A. Vegetable mould.
- B. Dark reddish gravel clay perfectly unstratified.
- C. D. Sandy portions of the deposit.
- E. Loose whitish gravel with chalk marl.
- F. Small pointed flint implement dug out by Mr. Wheaton about 5ft. from the surface.

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